



News from Congressman **Tom Lantos**

**12th Congressional District of California
San Mateo/San Francisco**

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FOR INFORMATION CALL
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Lantos Bill Would Reduce Abusive, Dangerous Child Labor Practices in U.S.

Washington, DC – Congressman Tom Lantos (D-San Mateo, San Francisco) today introduced long-overdue legislation to prevent employers from giving children dangerous work or keeping them on the job beyond a reasonable number of hours per week.

“More than 200,000 boys and girls are injured in the workplace in this country each year,” Lantos said. “And every five days, another young person is killed on the job. This is a worse record than when children in America were sent to the coal mines in this country more than 60 years ago, and incredibly, it has been since then that our child labor laws were last revised. It is high time for Congress to address this issue.”

The Youth Worker Protection Act is modeled on legislation that Lantos has introduced in previous congressional sessions. It has the support of the National Consumers’ League and the Child Labor Coalition, representatives of which joined Lantos in a news conference today. They also discussed their new report on the ways in which U.S. child labor practices may violate the International Labor Organization convention.

The Lantos legislation eliminates the distinction between the way agricultural and non-agricultural jobs for children are regulated, and ensures that three-year-old recommendations by the National Institute for Occupational Safety (NIOSH) are finally enforced. These recommendations include such common-sense proposals as revising the rules on children whose employment involves construction work, using chainsaws, or operating dangerous motorized vehicles.

In addition to ensuring that our children are protected from the most hazardous forms of work, the Youth Worker Protection would protect our youth from being exploited by working too many hours.

“This country must do more to protect its young people,” Lantos said. “They already have what amounts to full-time jobs just going to school and keeping up with their homework. We must ensure that they are spared burdensome work hours and hazardous tasks in the name of a salary.”